

**From:** Will Pearson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/9/02 12:40pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Proposed Settlement Rebuttal

Hello,

I'm writing to help inform those who are deciding the fate of the known world. The settlement with Microsoft as it currently stands is little more than a pat-on-the-back for a proven Monopoly.

When Standard Oil was accused of being a monopoly Rockefeller beleived that the government didn't have the authority to dismantle his monopoly. When the government threatened to send in the military, Rockefeller backed down, thus we have the several oil companies we have today.

Today we have Microsoft, a company with a reprehensible past. A company which has not innovated a single thing in it's history, and yet Microsoft gets rewarded for it's carpetbagging.

I work in the Education business. I take care of Networks and computers for a School District. For proof of Microsoft's monopoly just walk down to your local school and look at the software that is being taught. I'd bet my computer certifications that 90% of them say "Microsoft" upon start up.

Here we are, teaching our children that it's good to play unfair. That it's right to break the law because you'll be rewarded for it. Just look at how the proposed settlement will effect other companies. For instance, it gives Microsoft the authority as to who can use their protocols. Now in the computer world, things work good if protocols are standardized. Just look at the Internet running TCP/IP, it works only because of that free and public standardization.

Now look at Linux, the free operating system originally created by Linus Torvalds, in the words of Microsoft Officer Brian Valentine, "It is the longterm threat." Lets look at that sentence, notice he said 'the' not 'a' or even 'possibly', he lept straight to the big 'ol 'THE'. Microsoft beleives that there isn't a single operating system in the world that possibly poses a threat to it's monopoly, except Linux. And here we have under the proposed settlement authority given to Microsoft to say who it can share it's protocols with. How, because it gives Microsoft the ability to discern what it beleives is a legitimate business. Since Linux is free, it is non-profit. And therefore, not a legitimate business. Nobody has made any money selling it.

Furthermore, the settlement will have a devastating effect on the outcome of the various state lawsuits with Microsoft. Also the lawsuits involving the European Union. Why, it sets a precedent.

You have a job to do, you have a job of punishing the bully in the playground for not playing nice and breaking other kids legs. Do your job and do the right thing.

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|William Pearson      |"640K ought to be enough for anybody." |
|Desk# 505-954-2583   |--Bill Gates, 1981           |
|Pager# 505-820-8488  +-----+
|Technology Resource Center|"The tree of liberty must be refreshed |
|Santa Fe Public Schools|from time to time with the blood of   |
|                      |Patriots & Tyrants" --Thomas Jefferson |
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|"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary |
|safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." --Benjamin Franklin      |
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|"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World |
|War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." --Albert Einstein      |
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|"The purpose of war is to decide who has justice on his side, the     |
|looser is the guilty one" --Lucan                                     |
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